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LETTER DATED 8 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ZAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to confirm that, in accordance with the wish expressed by the President of the Republic of Zaire, Zaire hereby agrees to the deployment of a multinational force, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to address the grave humanitarian situation in eastern Zaire.

The Government of Zaire agrees with the Secretary-General that option (a) should be chosen, supplemented, if necessary, with option (b), as indicated in the letter dated 7 November 1996 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1996/916).

(Signed) Khabouji LUKABU
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Message from Deputy Prime Minister Kititwa

With reference to your handwritten note of 6 November 1996 concerning the draft resolution submitted by Germany and amended by France which is before the Security Council, I have the honour to inform you that the Council of Ministers, at its meeting on Friday, 8 November 1996, endorsed the decision taken by the President of Zaire agreeing to the deployment of a neutral multinational force in the Great Lakes region. The Council of Ministers understands that the force is to be a peacekeeping force in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly insofar as the immutability of the borders inherited from the colonial period is concerned. This force must be of a limited duration and must be deployed along the borders inherited from the colonial period. It is the understanding of the Council of Ministers that the corridors will be the roads taken by Rwandan and Burundi refugees from Zaire to their respective countries, as Zaire intends to use these corridors to carry out the immediate repatriation of Rwandan and Burundi refugees. With regard to humanitarian assistance, the Council of Ministers has specified that it must be provided both to Rwandan and Burundi refugees and to displaced Zairians. Assistance to Rwandan and Burundi refugees must be distributed in Rwanda and Burundi. Assistance to displaced Zairians must pass through Zaire and be distributed by non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the Zairian Administration. Zaire also expects that the international community will strongly and unequivocally condemn the perpetrators of the aggression and unjust war imposed on eastern Zaire. Zaire calls on the United Nations to order Rwanda and Burundi to withdraw their troops from occupied Zairian territory, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, and strongly to condemn the murderers of soldiers from the Zairian security contingent in the camps under United Nations mandate and the massacre of innocent civilians.

Jean-Marie KITITWA TUMANSI
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs